

Regents approve \$105 million energy modernization project

SIDNEY LOWRY

Editor-in-Chief | @sidney_lowry

Northwest has set into motion the Energy Infrastructure Modernization Project after the Board of Regents approved the \$105 million proposal to upgrade the John C. Redden Power Plant and energy distribution systems on campus at the Sept. 7 meeting.

The power plant on campus utilizes three natural gas boilers to provide steam heat to campus buildings, which are connected by a two-mile network of tunnels. Over the years, students, faculty and staff have received many emails alerting them about work on steam tunnel leaks that would leave buildings with no hot water during repair, potentially for many days depending on the repair.

Vice President of Finance and Administration Stacy Carrick said she believes this is the largest capital request project in Northwest's history.

"Dan (Haslag) and I some nights don't get a lot of sleep because we're worried about that plant going down," Carrick said during the proposal. "If it were to go down, it would impact operations across campus or critical utilities."

comfortable with the added \$20 million in debt. She said debt is not a bad thing as long as they can make the annual payment, and there was an analysis done that included project savings.

"Based on those savings and the fact that if we don't do something, I think our revenue streams are going to be jeopardized," Carrick said in the meeting. "So yes, I'm comfortable with the 20 million, I don't want to go beyond 20 million and I don't really want to go beyond 20 years."

Critical utilities also were assessed as a part of this project to find conditions on infrastructure systems like HVAC, electrical distribution, domestic water, sanitary sewer and stormwater. Thirty-three of those systems were ranked with a high priority for replacements.

Energy efficiency is part of the upgrades this project plans to tackle. Converting to LED lighting, low-flow bathrooms and other high efficiency systems through campus cooling and heating will maximize energy efficiencies.

Of the \$105 million, \$41 million will go to the central plant modernization, \$61.2 million will go to critical utility and stormwater management and \$2.8 million will go to study costs and other energy upgrades.

Dan (Haslag) and I some nights don't get a lot of sleep because we're worried about that plant going down."

STACY CARRICK

VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

These boilers are anywhere from 27-33 years past the expected useful life, and the two alternative fuel boilers are beyond repair. As for cooling, there are three chillers, two of which are past useful life. With the equipment being so far past its lifespan, the result is more breakdowns and failures, which leads to more disruption among campus.

The funding for the \$105 million project will come from a variety of sources. Carrick said \$5 million was given by the state, and then another \$25 million was appropriated in Fiscal Year 2024, but it is looking for another \$25 million from the state during Fiscal Year 2025. Of the two \$25 million appropriations, Northwest has to provide a 50/50 match, coming up with \$50 million itself.

The first \$30 million will come from different areas — the Campus Master Plan Fee, capital funds, lost revenues from the COVID-19 pandemic — but the University plans to borrow \$20 million to cover the rest of the costs.

Regent John Moore asked Carrick if she was

Though specifics aren't hammered out yet, Carrick said her goal is to get this project done over the next three years, to complete in December 2026. During that time, there is potential that buildings can be offline, but she said ideally they would work in small sections or wings of buildings to make sure that an entire building does not go offline at once.

With the upgrade of the plant and changing of systems, Carrick said the goal is to not lose existing workers, but rather not rehire for positions when employees leave. She said many people have retired at the end of last year, and there is a hold on hiring for those spots. Carrick also said employees may redistribute to different areas.

The Board unanimously approved the \$105 million project, which will now start undergoing design development for upgrades with IMEG Corp. Carrick said there will be multiple projects within the Energy Infrastructure Modernization Project, so many of them will have separate bidding processes and completion times.

ILLUSTRATION BY JULIANNA LAWRENCE ASST. DESIGN EDITOR

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ALEXIS STARKS PHOTO EDITOR
Local firefighter Chris Redding descends the stairs with his fellow firefighters to honor those who have died. Participants did 80 laps on the stairs to add up to the 2,071 steps of the World Trade Center Twin Towers.



AARON HARE MISSOURIAN PHOTOGRAPHER
Marla Pritzel, Alaina Runde, Bailey Christensen and Cammie White descend down the stairs at Bearcat Stadium during the annual 9/11 climb. Christensen marks the flights of the stairs they’ve climbed.



AARON HARE MISSOURIAN PHOTOGRAPHER
Megan Stidham raises her arms above her head to help her breathe while climbing the stairs to commiserate the fallen. Stidham climbed a total of 2,071 stairs, the amount that one of the World Trade Center’s Twin Towers consisted of.



ALEXIS STARKS PHOTO EDITOR
Firefighters Blake Sifflett, Cory Roberts and Jace Pine descend their 38th flight of stairs during the 9/11 annual stair climb. This is the fourth annual 9/11 stair climb hosted by the Northwest Show-Me Gold program.



ALEXIS STARKS PHOTO EDITOR
Northwest President Lance Tatum delivers the opening address during Northwest’s annual stair climb to commemorate the fallen from 9/11.

Lost lives honored during 9/11 stair climb

HANNAH CLAYWELL
News Editor | @Hannah_9504

Northwest held its annual stair climb to commemorate 9/11. Members of the community, students, faculty and staff came together to honor those who lost their lives that day.

Before the stair climb started, there were guest speakers including University President Lance Tatum, Campus Minister Jason Yarnell to lead prayer and Interim Fire Chief Jace Pine. Following the speakers, there was a moment of silence, and Fire Department Lt. An-

gie Jones rang a bell to honor the 343 firefighters and first responders who died that day.

“The first responders there 22 years ago today were people just like you and me, or any of the firefighters standing here with us or the armed forces here with us today, they rushed into the line of fire to save who they could,” Pine said in his speech.

Northwest worked with the Maryville Fire Department, Student Veterans Association and the Show-Me Gold program. Phillip Rickabaugh, former fire chief for 38 years, came to the event to show his support.

“It’s like we should never forget there were so many sacrifices made that day by first responders, by loved ones that were a part of this tragedy, and I think this should live on for their memory if nothing else,” Rickabaugh said.

Not only were first responders participating, but students, community members and even children were walking the stairs.

Several people at the event could even remember where they were that day like Rickabaugh and Student Veterans Association President Allison Martin. Rickabaugh was at work at the fire station and said he felt many emotions, like anger and sadness for the lives that ended that day.

“There was a lot of emotions, a lot of emotions from a lot of sadness from all the lives that were lost, anger for, you know, a terrorist attack on our nation killing, murdering innocent people,” Rickabaugh said.

Although Martin was only in seventh grade, she said she remembered sitting in her Spanish class and hearing about what was happening. She said because she was so young, she did not understand the impact it would have on people, including herself.

“It has impacted my life actually drastically because it was the main reason that I joined the military,” Martin said. “I served for 10 years, and I’m actually trying to get back into it right now.”

Martin is not the only person to have this impact her decision in joining the military or armed forces. Armed Forces Lt. Dane Corum and Head Public Relations Officer for the Student Veterans Association Paul Nelson said 9/11 had a big impact on their decisions to join.

“I lost a second cousin when the World Trade Center came down on 9/11,” Nelson said.

He said this event hits hard for him because of this, and it means a lot to him to be able to participate in the stair climb.

Corum was only 1 when this happened, but it also had an impact on him throughout his life.

He said it is important to him to pay homage to those that lost their lives.

“Being alive for it, even though I don’t really remember it, still hits home, you know,” Corum said. “It happened while I was alive, I feel like it’s sort of my duty to remember each year, as everyone should, what happened that day.”

Tatum said he remembered calling home and not knowing if he’d be able to drive home during the attacks. He said it was very unsettling because it was such a tragedy, and no one knew what was going to happen next. He said the stair climb is a great event to memorialize and remember all who lost their lives.

Pictures of first responders that passed during 9/11 were available for participants to wear during the stair climb. Many of the participants wore these to honor and represent them.

“When I’m running up those stairs, I don’t feel like it’s just me,” Nelson said. “I feel like I’m representing something, something bigger than myself.”

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AARON HARE MISSOURIAN PHOTOGRAPHER Bernie Farmer gets his mugshot taken after he was arrested for farting in public.



AARON HARE MISSOURIAN PHOTOGRAPHER Football players from local West Nodaway R-I School District toss handfuls of candy onto U.S. Highway 136 while children rush to catch and pick up as much candy as they can. The parade included over 45 vehicles ranging from fire engines to tractors.



AARON HARE MISSOURIAN PHOTOGRAPHER Nathan Larabee listens to directions from daughter Gracie Larabee as he carts her around blindfolded on the first stage of the Super Farmer contest. The Super Farmer contest began at 2 p.m. in City Park and consisted of six challenges where contestants competed for a \$100 prize.

Community celebrates fall with full-day festival

HANNAH CLAYWELL News Editor | @Hannah_9504

Burlington Junction held its Farmers’ Fall Festival Sept. 9. It was a day full of activities starting around 6 a.m. and ending around 9 p.m.

People from around town and surrounding areas came together to celebrate the festival and the free events. Some included the vendors Taylor Giesken, Alyssa Roderick and Marty Kaster. Many people went to all of the events throughout the day.

“I just love the community,” Giesken said. “I love seeing smiling faces. It’s a bustling small town, and I think it’s a really good community.”

The day started with break-

fast for the community, a tractor cruise and a 5K. Then there was the Little Mr. and Mrs. contest, where children got to show off a knock-knock joke or a special talent to the judges. Allan Goff and Sadie Marrow were named the prince and princess, and the overall two winners, Caleb Hull and Adelynn Marsh, were named Little Mr. and Little Mrs.

U.S. Highway 136, Burlington Junction’s main road, was full of people for the parade through town. Children were lined up for the candy being thrown from the tractors, cars and firetrucks. The winners from the Little Mr. and Mrs. contest were also presented at the parade.

The vendors set up booths at City Park at 1 p.m. while activities for children were also going on, like bouncy houses, hot

wheel races and a children’s pedal tractor pull. Many of the children walked around with hair tinsel and face paint.

Kaster is a Northwest alumni and goes to around three different festivals and farmers markets a week. She said she has a lot of family in Burlington Junction and is always excited to get back.

“I’m a people person, so I like to get out and meet new people,” Kaster said. “And like here, I’ll see people that I’ve known from the past because I’ve lived here before.”

The original jail cell from the Burlington Junction Police Department was also out for people to be fake arrested. Community member Bernie Farmer was handcuffed and had to spend time there until a family member came to get him out.

Grocery store expands, adds ice cream shop

HANNAH CLAYWELL News Editor | @Hannah_9504

Northwest alumni Michael Goff has been the owner of Goff Home Grocery in Burlington Junction, Missouri, for the last five years. Recently, he added an ice cream shop to the store.

Burlington Junction has a population of around 500 people, and Goff Home Grocery is one of the only places to get groceries in town. Goff said he added the ice cream to keep up with any competitors.

Goff was originally a teacher for nine years and has owned businesses before and rental properties. He said it was hard to be a full-time teacher and a full-time entrepreneur. A couple years ago, he and his wife decided to make the store a full-time business.

“When we bought the store, it was about half the size,” Goff said.

Since opening the store, there have been a lot of expansions, ice cream just being the latest one. He has added a Hunt

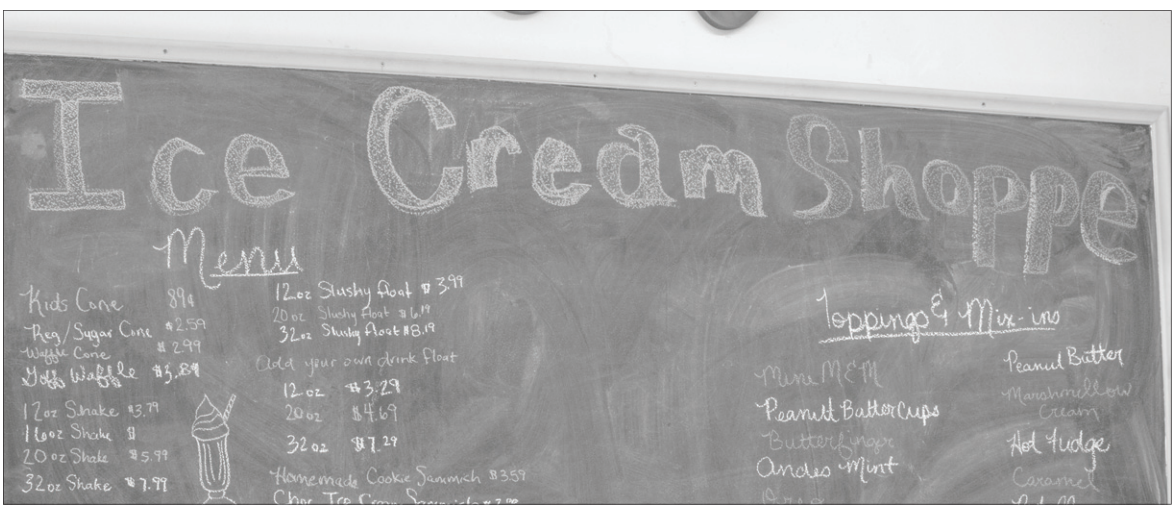
Brothers Pizza, deli sandwiches and bakery options, like cinnamon rolls and cookies.

Goff said implementing these ideas and extra business opportunities into the store adds things bigger corporations do not have and that the community wants. His main way of marketing the store is through social media posts.

“There are businesses that are very competitive in the grocery world and that have come into town,” Goff said. “And we understood that, you know, they have been corporate dollars and orders, that they can sell things cheaper than we can even buy. We needed to adapt, so we started the ice cream idea.”

He said the business is very involved with the community as well. Goff is the announcer at the West Nodaway football games and hosts after parties at the shop. He said after the home opener for the football team this year, there were over 100 people that came through the store.

Goff said though the transition was not without any chal-



ALLISON DUARTE PHOTOGRAPHER Goff Home Grocery displays its menu items with a chalkboard on the wall behind its retro-style ice cream bar. In addition to its ice cream, shakes, floats and sandwiches, Goff Home Grocery noted there are also plans to serve Italian sodas.

lenges, the community feedback has been amazing. He said he wants people outside of Burlington Junction to also want to come to his store.

“They’ve been really supportive, but, you know, we’re a town of 500 people, and it’s always good to get that work out past Burlington Junction,” Goff said. “It allows people to come

over and sit...I guess take a step back and slow down a bit like us country folk do.”

Goff Home Grocery is a family run store with Goff, his wife and their five kids. Goff said his kids help out in the store all the time, making ice cream and pizzas. Shoppers described the store as very family orientated.

Goff said there are still more

plans to expand and add seating. The store recently has started testing some Italian cream sodas and selling them to customers. He also said there are plans to host more events like the after parties for the community to get together and for the store to get involved.

“It’s all about faith, family and football,” Goff said.

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CRIME LOG

for the week of Sept. 14

Northwest Missouri State University Police Department

Sept. 11
There is a closed investigation for a fire alarm in South Complex.
There is a closed investigation for property damage in the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Sept. 9
There is a closed investigation for assault in Perrin Hall with **Alexander A. White**, 18.

Sept. 8
There is a closed investigation for a domestic disturbance at 715 East First St.
There is an open investigation for harassment in Franken Hall.

Sept. 6
There is a closed investigation for a liquor law violation in Perrin Hall.
There is a closed investigation for stealing at American Inn and Suites.
There is a closed investigation for a fire alarm in South Complex.

Maryville Department of Public Safety

Sept. 8
There was a summons issued to **Drake E. Keele**, 21, for driving while intoxicated and an equipment violation on the 500 block of North Main Street.

Sept. 7
There was an accident between **Carl E. Rogers**, 85, and **Catherine J. Holthaus**, 35, on West First Street and South Munn Avenue.

Sept. 6
A citation was issued to **Hemanthnaidu Varri**, 26, for careless and imprudent driving and leaving the scene of an accident on the 1200 block of North Walnut Street.
There is an ongoing investigation for a lost or stolen license plate on the 100 block of North Vine Street.
There was an accident between **Michael L. Abrams**, 22, and **Taylor D. Wespe** on the 2000 block of East First Street.

Sept. 5
There was a summons issued to **Darik L. Rodgers**, 19, for possession of a fake ID on the 100 block of North Vine Street.

Sept. 4
There was a summons issued to **Christopher L. Holbrook**, 43, for driving while suspended on the 1600 block of South Main Street.

Sept. 2
There was a summons issued to **Kristy D. Kicksey**, 45, for driving while intoxicated, property damage and leaving the scene of an accident on the 900 block of East Seventh Street.
There was a summons issued to **Shilar T. Nastasio**, 21, for larceny on the 1600 block of South Main Street.

Sept. 1
There was a cell phone recovered on the 900 block of North Walnut Street.

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Former NW student continues probation following violation

Logan Fainter, a former Northwest student convicted of invasion of privacy, will now be going to an out-patient sex offender treatment through the Missouri Division of Probation and Parole after a probation violation.
Fainter was originally arrested by University Police in February 2022 after filming two people in the female bathroom on the third floor of Millikan Hall.
He pleaded guilty of the class E felony, and was placed on probation. In March, he was charged with three new misdemeanors.
Fainter admitted to the court he was in violation of his probation by failing to report contact with law enforcement he had in March.
4th Circuit Judge Corey Herron asked Fainter if he realized that if he violated pro-

bation again, it would result in the execution of a sentence. The original sentencing outlined four years in the Department of Corrections with a suspended execution of sentence on the condition of five years of supervised probation.
Fainter will continue his five-year probation while attending and completing the out-patient sex offender program.



AARON HARE MISSOURIAN PHOTOGRAPHER
Regent John Moore asks Evergreen Solutions Senior Consultant Connor Holcombe about the limitations detailed in the compensation study regarding proxy adjustments for cost of living in Maryville at the Sept. 7 Board of Regents Workshop.

Regents discuss compensation study

SIDNEY LOWRY
Editor-in-Chief | @sidney_lowry

For the last year, Northwest has been working on a compensation study to assess where it compares with other universities on pay for employees. Evergreen Solutions Senior Consultant Connor Holcombe presented the results from the study with Director of Human Resources Krista Barcus at the Sept. 7 Board of Regents Workshop.
Holcombe said Evergreen Solutions took a sample of 75 positions on campus across different areas and departments. Those positions were then compared to data from peer universities in the region and data from the College and University Professional Association.
When compared to the peer universities, the study found that Northwest was behind by 2.6% when all employees were averaged. He explained that since this was an average, it doesn't mean all positions are earning 2.6% less than peers.
"First off, 2.6% is not a particularly large figure in the realm of what we're looking at here," Holcombe said. "That sort of means that the University is very close to in line with what the market is doing."

Within those who are earning less than what peers in similar positions at other universities are earning, it found that those in higher classifications — like directors and higher — are the furthest behind the market value.
"This is a trend that we're starting to see as we do more of these studies," Holcombe said. "And that tends to be because, as minimum wages have been increasing, a lot of institutions have been sort of bringing up that bottom end, and maybe not as aggressively moving the top end if they don't have the budget to move everybody all at once."
The study compared the staff classifications at Northwest against the College and University Professional Association data. This data provides a wider range of universities.
As for faculty ranks — instructors, assistant professor, associate professor and professor — the average salaries were compared to the average from the CUPA data. When compared with the region, staff member salaries were behind by 5.1% when averaged.
The study also ran the numbers with a proxy adjustment for cost of living in Maryville compared to the CUPA average. After the cost of living adjustment, Northwest salaries were ahead by 4.7%.
"I understand and certainly I want to emphasize that we're aware that doing this proxy cost of living does have limitations," Holcombe said. "We want to make it clear that this isn't the same level of control that we had over that (peer) primary data in which we really could control on an individualized basis over which peers provided data where they're from and making those direct cost of living adjustments."

When looking at regional data, there was no comparison for instructors, but assistant

COMPENSATION STUDY - STAFF

Without Cost-of-Living Adjustment

-5.1%

With Cost-of-Living Adjustment

4.7%

INFOGRAPHIC BY **SIDNEY LOWRY** EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

COMPENSATION STUDY - FACULTY

Without Cost-of-Living Adjustment

Assistant Professors

-15.6%

Associate Professors

-8.8%

Professors

-8.3%

With Cost-of-Living Adjustment

Assistant Professors

-4.7%

Associate Professors

1.4%

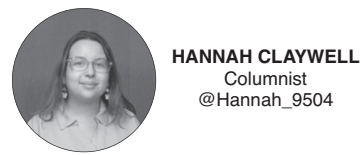
Professors

1.9%

INFOGRAPHIC BY **SIDNEY LOWRY** EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

in the study such as salary ranks, overload pay, summer pay and benefits compared to peer institutions," she said in an email to The Missouriian.
As for the outcome of the study, she said she hopes those making decisions have a clear philosophy when developing a pay scale for staff and faculty across their years of employment.
"Every student every day is important to us and that is not possible if we cannot retain faculty and staff due to compensation issues," Beemer said in an email to The Missouriian.

Race-based admissions are needed to ensure diversity



This summer the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of eliminating race-based admissions. Race can be a factor of choosing the students, but affirmative action has been banned.

Not only is admissions being targeted, but scholarships are on the line. Missouri schools have preemptively transitioned to limit race-based scholarships in case it is also taken away.

I am Hispanic, and I receive Hispanic scholarships. Taking this away makes it harder for me or anyone else who relies on these. My great-grandparents immigrated from Mexico to ensure that my family could have a good life and a good education. Now, decades later, I am in my second year of college, living out the life they envisioned for their children and grandchildren.

My family was not allowed to speak Spanish or be invested in our culture, these scholarships and interest groups help me connect with my culture and take it back. I want to live a life where I can be a part of culture and proud of it when my family was afraid to.

The Supreme Court made this decision because it seems diversity is too vague of a meaning for them to see its importance. The Supreme Court should not be able to decide that my diversity is too vague for them. This is going to show a drop in different races in admissions, making diversity less common in schools — that cannot happen.

People need to see diversity, it benefits students in school.

Some people come from rough backgrounds and don't have the same opportunities others do. They rely on a university's admission rates of certain races — and the scholarships that come with that. Just because a university can still recruit diverse applicants, it will be harder without guarantees.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote the dissenting opinion on this decision, saying "The Court cannot escape the inevitable truth that race matters in students' lives."

My heritage is important to me, and I want it to be a big part of my life because it's not something that can go away. It makes me who I am, and it always will. With the elimination of these scholarships, it only puts another obstacle for me and everyone that looks like me.

I can't afford to go to college without aid. These court decisions are limiting students of color, now saying that race-conscious admissions policies are discriminatory. Competition increases, making it harder to receive scholarships that make higher-education a possibility.

Progress has been made toward making places more diverse, but now we're taking steps back. Diversity is something that is going to continue to be attacked, and that's attacking me and so many other students.

I know I have already been accepted to Northwest, but I do not need to be afraid of my scholarships being taken away because my advantage is apparently a disadvantage to too many others.

THE STROLLER: Your Bearcat wants boy bands back

I miss being a pre-teen and listening to One Direction, Five Seconds of Summer and the Jonas Brothers. I need Simon Cowell to do his thing and get five random boys together to make some amazing music.

A boy-band-celebrity crush always felt different. I never had a chance with them, but I sure thought I did. There's nothing like fighting with your friends over which member of One Direction is yours be-

cause you can't all like the same one, mine's Niall Horan.

I want Valentine's Day cards, pillows and blankets with their faces all over them. I want to feel like a pre-teen obsessing over a boy older than me and, let's be honest, not making the best music. Even though it still feels like the greatest music I've ever heard.

If boy bands came back right now, I'd actually be able to go to a concert. I don't have to beg

my mom to buy a ticket for a band she's never heard of, I can go out and do it myself. I don't have to listen to my dad make fun of me for being in love with a boy I'll never meet.

Speaking of being in love with a boy I'll never meet, I miss reading about Harry Styles' green eyes on Wattpad at 3 a.m. before my seventh grade classes. It was some of the best literature I have ever read.

What I miss the most is the

drama of it all. Hearing about the scandals each member was involved in was great, like when Nick Jonas stopped wearing his purity ring and that's all anyone talked about for weeks. Who actually cares about that? 12-year-old me did.

I never thought I'd miss something this much, but I need boy bands back.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of the Northwest Missourian.



HAILEY JOHNSON-NEESER CARTOONIST

OUR VIEW:

Students should learn about heritages outside their own

A person's heritage can make up a large portion of their identity. Their story comes from generations of family members who may have immigrated from other countries, faced unimaginable hardships and built their lives through their heritage.

It is important for the descendants to understand their heritage and how their family came to be where they are now. Not only that, but it is important for everyone to be open-minded to heritages, cultures and customs outside of their own.

Living in the diverse melting pot of the United States means more likely than not, at some point, everyone will be exposed to cultures and heritages that are not their own. This can be in the workplace, school or day-to-day interactions. Students should be making a conscious effort to learn about other heritages.

By being open-minded to other cultures, students are able to gain a better understanding of people, which will help them be prepared for a diverse workplace. Different classes such as Intercultural Communication, Pluralism in a Multicultural Society and International Relations are offered at Northwest to help students

prepare for these interactions. These classes stress the importance of being able to effectively communicate with people of different heritages.

Outside of taking a class, students have other opportunities to learn about other heritages and traditions in the world. Northwest's Office of Diversity and Inclusion offers annual events and activities for six of the eight heritage months, including Hispanic Heritage Month, Black History Month and Native American Heritage Month.

Not every student has the chance to explore their own heritage, so by attending heritage month events, they can learn more about their background and family. This can look like lectures by a guest speaker, interactive crafts or movie nights. In the past, Northwest has hosted traditional Native American beading and a salsa dancing night for Hispanic Heritage Month.

These events are not only for people of those specific heritages, everyone should attend. ODI hosts these activities to educate students and provide an environment for students to experience different heritages.

Everyone deserves the right to be proud of their heritage, and the first step is having the resources to increase

their knowledge. It is important for students to be given the opportunity to explore their heritage.

Celebrating heritage is as important as ever because just last spring Missouri's House of Representatives voted on banning state funding for diversity and inclusion. This has not been passed, but if it does, many public colleges would have to lose their DEI programs or make them smaller. Other states like Florida have already made this transition, also defunding classes about DEI.

While this would not directly impact Northwest, it does affect other college students in Missouri and is not something that should be ignored.

Heritage is important to many people all over the world. Everyone needs to be conscious of the differences between different people's backgrounds, and everyone needs the opportunity to be a part of their own heritage. It's not something that is going away or can be ignored.

Whether someone is Hispanic, Native American, Black, Irish, Asian, Pacific Islander, Greek, Jewish, Arab, Indian, Italian, French, German, African or any other existing heritage, they deserve to be recognized and appreciated.

YOUR VIEW:

How do you celebrate your heritage?

VISLAVATH NAVEEN Freshman Information Technology



"Our culture is very spiritual. We often celebrate God with praises and daily worship."

SAIKIRTHI HASYAGAR Freshman Information Technology



"I am a Hindu, and I come from the southern part of India. One of the holidays we celebrate is Diwali. It is one of India's largest and most important holidays. We light lamps outside of our homes to symbolize the inner light that protects us from spiritual darkness."

DELANEY YOUNG Freshman Marine Biology



"I don't really do anything. Like my family doesn't have a real specific heritage, so I don't really do anything."

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Bearcat softball to host fall foes

Bearcat Softball Field will look a little busier this fall. While Northwest softball typically doesn't start competitive play until the spring, the Bearcats are hosting four exhibition doubleheaders Sept. 17-Oct. 1.

Coach Naomi Tellez, who is set to enter her third season at the helm of the Bearcats, said it will be a great experience for the players in preparation for the official spring season. She said it will be nice not having to wait until February to watch her team against someone else.

"Being able to compete against somebody that's not ourselves is something (the players) look forward to," Tellez said. "It's really beneficial to face good competition."

Northwest is coming off one of its best campaigns in recent years after the Bearcats finished with a 28-24 record last season — the most wins in a season for the program since 2017. Sophomore outfielder Omara

Love said she's happy for the opportunity to continue that momentum with the quartet of fall games.

"I'm excited to see what we bring, I'm excited to see what we have and I'm excited to see what we can do," Love said. "I'm happy with what I'm seeing with our team, and I'm sure the rest of our team is as well."

The Bearcats' first game will be against Des Moines Area Community College at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Sept. 17. The Bears finished with a 52-5 record in 2022. Next up for Northwest will be St. Mary (Kansas) at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sept. 23. The Rattlers went 24-25 last season.

Northwest will finish up its fall schedule with two doubleheaders in one weekend. The Bearcats will play Johnson County Community College, who had a 33-8 record in 2022, at noon and 2 p.m. Sept. 30.

They'll be right back on the diamond against Kirkwood Community College at 1

UP NEXT

NW vs. Des Moines Area Community College

1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Sept. 17

Bearcat Softball Field

p.m. and 3 p.m. Oct. 1. A season ago, the Eagles finished 45-18.

Love and Tellez said they're happy that all four contests will be right at home.

"It's a great help for our families — it's nice to be able to have them here and not have to travel to watch us play," Love said.

"I think, you know, coming off the season we had hopefully will draw more people," Tellez said. "Then, usually the weather's a lot better in the fall for us, so, you know, being able to play at home with decent weather is huge."



AARON HARE MISSOURIAN PHOTOGRAPHER

Northwest football senior wide receiver Kashan Griffin runs the ball down the field and prepares to be tackled by an Emporia State defender in the first quarter of the Bearcats 33-13 loss to the Hornets Sept. 7. Northwest totaled 424 offensive yards in the Week 2 matchup, 55 more than Emporia, despite the team's first home loss since 2018.

REBOUND

CONTINUED FROM A8

The Bearcats will bring with them one of the best offensive lines in the conference so far this season. Northwest has not yet given up a sack in two games, and sophomore running back Jay Harris leads the MIAA in rushing yards with 251 on 50 carries — an average of 5 yards per carry.

At Northwest Athletics' media luncheon Sept. 12, there was no update on the health of any players, including seniors quarterback Mike Hohensee and wide receiver Kashan Griffin who left the game early in the first quarter against Emporia.

In Division II football, only the top-seven teams in each of the four regions earn a playoff spot. While one loss is generally not enough to derail an en-

tire season, two losses can put a team on the brink of the playoffs or out of the conversation entirely. Only one program from Super Region Three made the postseason in the 2022 season with two losses — Northwest.

Clayborne said the experience under pressure the Bearcats' received in 2022 will help them as they move forward with the season and look to avoid that second loss.

"We played so much better that second half of the season after that first loss," Clayborne said about last season. "It sucks we had to learn that lesson again this year, but I think we can be that much better coming off this loss because we're going to learn a lot more from what we did wrong and how we're playing certain things. It sucks to learn that lesson now but to have that there and see what we did last year, I think we can flip this whole script."

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SCHEDULE

CONTINUED FROM A8

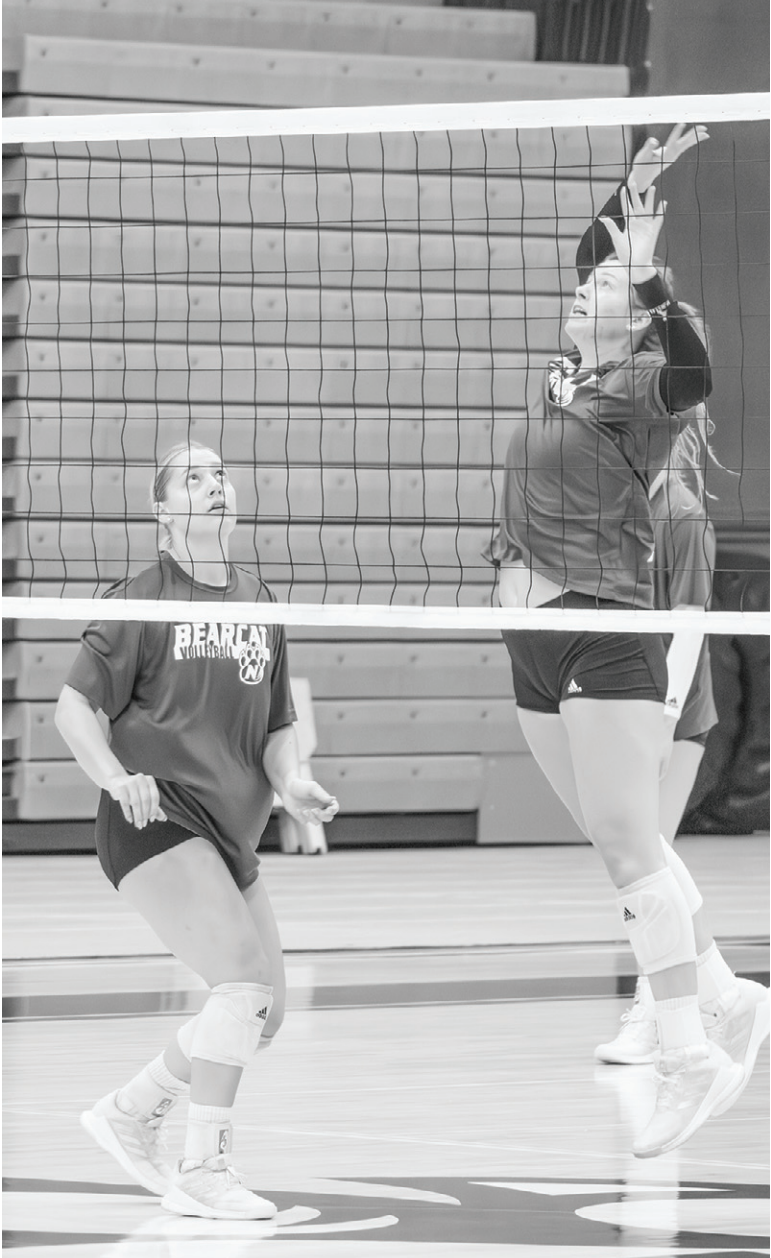
Woerth said although there are a few areas the Bearcats need to work on, she is confident in Northwest's abilities heading into the weekend.

"We gotta cut down on our unforced errors — we just missed too many serves and then didn't get enough aces," Woerth said. "We did have enough kills that we were where we wanted to be, so that was a positive."

Northwest had its second tournament of the season at the Washburn Invitational Sept. 8-9. The Bearcats dropped their first match of the weekend to Harding 3-1. Northwest bounced back for its second match of the tournament against Midwestern State, winning 3-0. The Bearcats continued the momentum into the second day of the Washburn Invitational, sweeping Christian Brothers. Northwest was not able to keep it, though, as the team lost to Oklahoma Baptist 3-0 to end the tournament.

Junior libero Kyah Luhring tied the program record last season for the most digs in a three-set match, with 25 against Central Oklahoma Nov. 2, 2022. She leads the Bearcats in digs this year with 136 digs over the course of eight games. Luhring said it's important for the Bearcats to come out strong against their foes at home this weekend.

"We need to get the win in our win book," Luhring said. "Every team in our conference is really good, so as long as we come out strong and focus on our setup, that will be good."



ALLISON DUARTE PHOTOGRAPHER

Northwest volleyball sophomore right-side hitter Kasidy Mohwinkle jumps to attack the ball with junior middle hitter Avery Kemp at the ready by her side. The Bearcats have triumphed in their last 13 consecutive home games.

Maryville hopes to continue win streak at home

DESTINY TAYLOR
Sports Reporter | @destinytay04

Fans will be heading at 7 p.m. Sept. 16 to the 'Hound Pound to dust off the bleachers as Maryville football returns home for the first time of the season to take on its Midland Empire Conference and Class 3 District 8 rival, St. Pius X.

Coming from the north area of Kansas City, Missouri, Pius will travel to Maryville carrying a 3-0 start to the season. Coach Matt Webb said he is excited to have the advantage of hosting the Spoofhounds' district rivals in the 'Hound Pound. The team has been on the road for the first three games of the season.

"We've played three weeks on the road, and it's no fun getting on those yellow buses and traveling those distances," Webb said.

After a roughly two-hour trek Sept. 8 to Chillicothe, Missouri, the 'Hounds took to the field and

didn't allow a single point from the Hornets in a 50-0 win. The Spoofhounds look to continue their momentum as they try to win back-to-back home openers.

Senior center Owen Wonderly will be working on communicating with his fellow linemen during practice before the game against the Warriors. Wonderly said the team needs to work on keeping its motivation and energy levels high, no matter what the score says on the board.

"We need to always have that mentality and mindset to keep the pedal to the metal," Wonderly said.

Senior running back Don Allen made his debut against Chillicothe by scoring two of the Spoofhounds' touchdowns and gaining 127 offensive yards. Webb said by adding Allen into the mix, the team utilized a weapon made for success. He said Allen's a good



ALEXIS STARKS PHOTO EDITOR
Junior wide receiver Delton Davis runs down the field to gain the Spoofhounds a first down in the Aug. 18 jamboree after dodging an attempted tackle. Out of the three games played, Davis has only dropped one pass throughout the season.

skills position player that could benefit the team against Pius.

Wonderly said skipping the anticipation on the long bus rides and playing on a more familiar field brings him comfort. He said he is proud of his teammates' ability to apply the skills practiced during the week based on film and what was taught from the coaches.

"I feel like our entire offensive line as a whole is excellent, and I'm really proud of all our guys," Wonderly said. "Our entire offensive line is getting better week

by week and improving. I think we can all get better at allowing less sacks and pressure as an entire unit. I'm really excited to have our first home game back at the 'Hound Pound, and it should be a really, really good game."

Maryville holds down the 47th slot in the Missouri High School Football Rankings, while Pius occupies the 56th spot. While Webb isn't concerned about that, he said he's ready for a hard-fought showdown.

"History shows you that the

UP NEXT

MHS vs. St. Pius X
7 p.m. Sept. 15
'Hound Pound

MEC race has come down between Maryville and St. Pius X, and we are fortunate to play this game at home," Webb said. "It's a home field advantage, and St. Pius X is an unbelievably talented team. It's going to be fun playing in the 'Hound Pound — it's a special place."

Northwest soccer starts season with pair of home wins, team prepares to face familiar foes in regional matches

STEVEN CROSBY
Sports Reporter | @sicsteve27

After a successful weekend — winning two games at home — Northwest soccer is looking to keep the momentum going as the team gets ready to face fellow Central Region teams, Missouri Western and No. 16 Central Missouri.

Junior forward Linsi Mashburn said although the games will only count as a regional match, and not toward the Bearcats' MIAA record, it's still important to set the tone now for when the conference schedule does start. She said it's important for the team to go out hard.

"We do believe we can beat them, and we should go out with that attitude," Mashburn said. "We should not be scared just because we know how good they've been in the past. We're a new team, and they're a new team."

Northwest will be going against Missouri Western at 3 p.m. Sept. 15 at Bearcat Pitch. Western is 1-2-1 after defeating William Jewell, tying with Bemidji State and losing to Northern

State and Rockhurst.

Last season, the Bearcats tied with the Griffons in their first match. The second, and most recent, match between Northwest and Western ended in a 1-0 victory for the Bearcats.

Northwest will travel to Central to take on the Jennies at 1 p.m. Sept. 17 in Warrensburg, Missouri. The Jennies are 2-2, with losses to Augustana and Minnesota State and wins over Southwestern Minnesota and Mary. Central defeated the Bearcats both times the two teams met in 2022.

Coach Marc Gordon said to expect a close game between Northwest and Western. He said Central is a nationally well-known powerhouse.

"Western has some new talent that has come in, but they have a solid core of players that give them a balance between the two," Gordon said. "UCM is always super competitive — well coached, they're organized and they're going to be ready to play when we're at their place."

The Bearcats won their home opener against No. 15 Augustana,

2-1, Sept. 8. Northwest carried on the success of the first game of the weekend by winning against Sioux Falls, 4-0, Sept. 10. Northwest was able to bounce back after a rough start to its season, finishing its first weekend without a victory, 0-1-1.

Junior forward Adell Gore had a successful weekend herself, scoring two goals and recording two assists to help the Bearcats in both victories. Her effort helped her secure the honor of the MIAA's Offensive Player of the Week Sept. 12.

Gordon said there are some adjustments needed to be made on offense over the weekend. He said the Bearcats need to make sure that players are positioning themselves correctly on the field.

"I just felt like we were getting overly anxious to try and get in front of the goal," Gordon said. "Convincing our wide players to stay wide, that just helps create gaps in defenses and things for players to make runs into."

Junior defender Maddie Taylor capped off Northwest's scoring over the weekend, getting a goal in the 50th minute of the game



NIAH KAHLANDT PHOTOGRAPHER
Senior forward Kaylie Rock eyes the goal before attempting a shot during Northwest soccer's 2-1 win against Augustana Sept. 8. Rock recorded 13 assists and scored a total of 17 goals in the 2022 season.

UP NEXT

NW vs. Missouri Western
3 p.m. Sept. 15
Bearcat Pitch

NW vs. Central Missouri
1 p.m. Sept. 17
Warrensburg, Missouri

Bearcat men's senior wins individual title on limited practice, tournament next for team

ANDREW CLARK
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

Northwest tennis traveled to participate in the Southwest Baptist Invitational Sept. 8-9 in Bolivar, Missouri. Both men's and women's tennis had a strong weekend, but the doubles matches were a highlight.

The women's team was led by junior Carolina Lima De Oliveira, winning three of her four matches. The men's team performed well, earning 12 singles wins and sending three doubles teams to the championship matches. Men's doubles overall went 7-1.

Bearcat senior Andrea Zamurri was the men's singles champion for the entire competition, winning all four singles and two doubles matches he played. Although Zamurri did not have a lot of practice time before the tournament, he said he and the team as a whole played well.

"I came back from work Tuesday night, and I only had two practices in before the tournament," Zamurri said. "But, I felt great honestly, and I played really well. I think for the team overall, they all played decently — especially the doubles. I think it went pretty well for everyone."

Upcoming for the Bearcat men's team is the Intercollegiate Tennis Association regionals Sept. 15-17 in Topeka, Kansas. Coach Mark Rosewell said the tournament is important,



ALEXIS STARKS PHOTO EDITOR
Northwest tennis senior Andrea Zamurri backhands the ball back to his teammate during practice Sept. 11. The Bearcats are preparing for the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Regionals Sept. 15-17 in Topeka, Kansas.

UP NEXT

Intercollegiate Tennis Association Regionals
Sept. 15-17
Topeka, Kansas

and the team will be well represented in the seedings.

"It's the big event in the fall, and the ITA tournament is everything," Rosewell said. "We have advanced to the national tournament four out of the last five years. It looks like Andrea is going to be the No. 1 seed in singles and in doubles. All three of our doubles teams are going to be seeded. I don't know where, but they will be seeded in the top eight."

Zamurri said he is trying to win the regional tournament, but the goal for him is to return to the national tournament. He missed the competition in 2022 after securing a spot in back-to-back seasons.

"Two years ago I lost in the semifinals to the guy who won it," Zamurri said. "I was close, and I didn't play my best tennis, so I

think I really have a shot at it."

Even without a lot of practice time in the last few weeks, Zamurri is not doing any extra training to prepare. He said by working hard for those two hours, he can get the practice needed. Zamurri said he wants to take advantage of the time on the court for preparation and allow himself to spend other time toward making sure his body is comfortable and healthy leading into his next matches.

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Fall ball

Northwest softball will host four games this fall to prepare for the spring. see A6

SPORTS

Sept. 14, 2023 | @NWMSports

Pitch perfect

Northwest soccer wins first two home games, prepares for regional foes. see A7

Northwest football looks to rebound at Fort Hays State

WESLEY MILLER

Managing Editor | @wesleymiller360

UP NEXT

NW vs. Fort Hays State
7 p.m. Sept. 16
Hays, Kansas

This is unfamiliar territory for Northwest football. The Bearcats are 1-1 for the first time since 2012 and are looking to avoid consecutive losses for the first time since 2017.

Except, they don't have the comfort of home to return to. For the first time since Week 10 of the 2018 season, No. 15 Northwest will hit the road after a home game without a win. After a 33-13 loss to Emporia State Sept. 7 snapped what was the longest home game win streak in Division II (18), the Bearcats will look to bounce back at Fort Hays State at 7 p.m. Sept. 16 in Hays, Kansas.

Coach Rich Wright and sophomore defensive tackle Kobe Clayborne said it was a hard loss to the Hornets, but the focus needs to be on moving forward.

"Friday was a tough day — I'm not gonna lie about that," Wright said. "But, you know, good thing about football, which is indicative of life, is, really, if you spend too much time looking in the rearview mirror, you miss what's in front of you."

"It definitely did hurt for the weekend, but you just got to turn the page," Clayborne said. "If we dwell on it too much, then we're not focused on our next opponent in Hays, and then another slip-up can happen."

In recent years, the Bearcats have had hard-fought contests with the Tigers (1-1), who will also be looking to bounce back after a 40-14 loss to Pittsburg State Sept. 7. Before Northwest's 33-19 win a season ago,

the previous four contests between both teams were decided by single digits.

Wright knows what it's like to be the visitors in Hays. Since taking over the helm of the program in December 2016, he's coached there twice, and he's won there twice. In fact, the Bearcats are 7-0 in Hays since the Tigers joined the MIAA in 2007. Heading into the Week 3 matchup, Wright said he knows what he can expect from Hays and its coach, Chris Brown.

"Anytime you play against a Chris Brown team, you know a couple of things: It's going to be a very physical game — you're going out to Hays, it's a night game — so it's going to be packed," Wright said. "So, you know, we just have to control our controllables and go get ready for a tough game."

The third-straight night game for the Bearcats will be Clayborne's first trip to Hays, but he said he's heard other people talk about how tough the environment can be.

"That's the fun thing about football is those tough games," Clayborne said. "That's what we came here to Northwest to do was play in those tough games. Everyone wants to give their best, and we want their best, too. It's just gonna make it that much more fun."

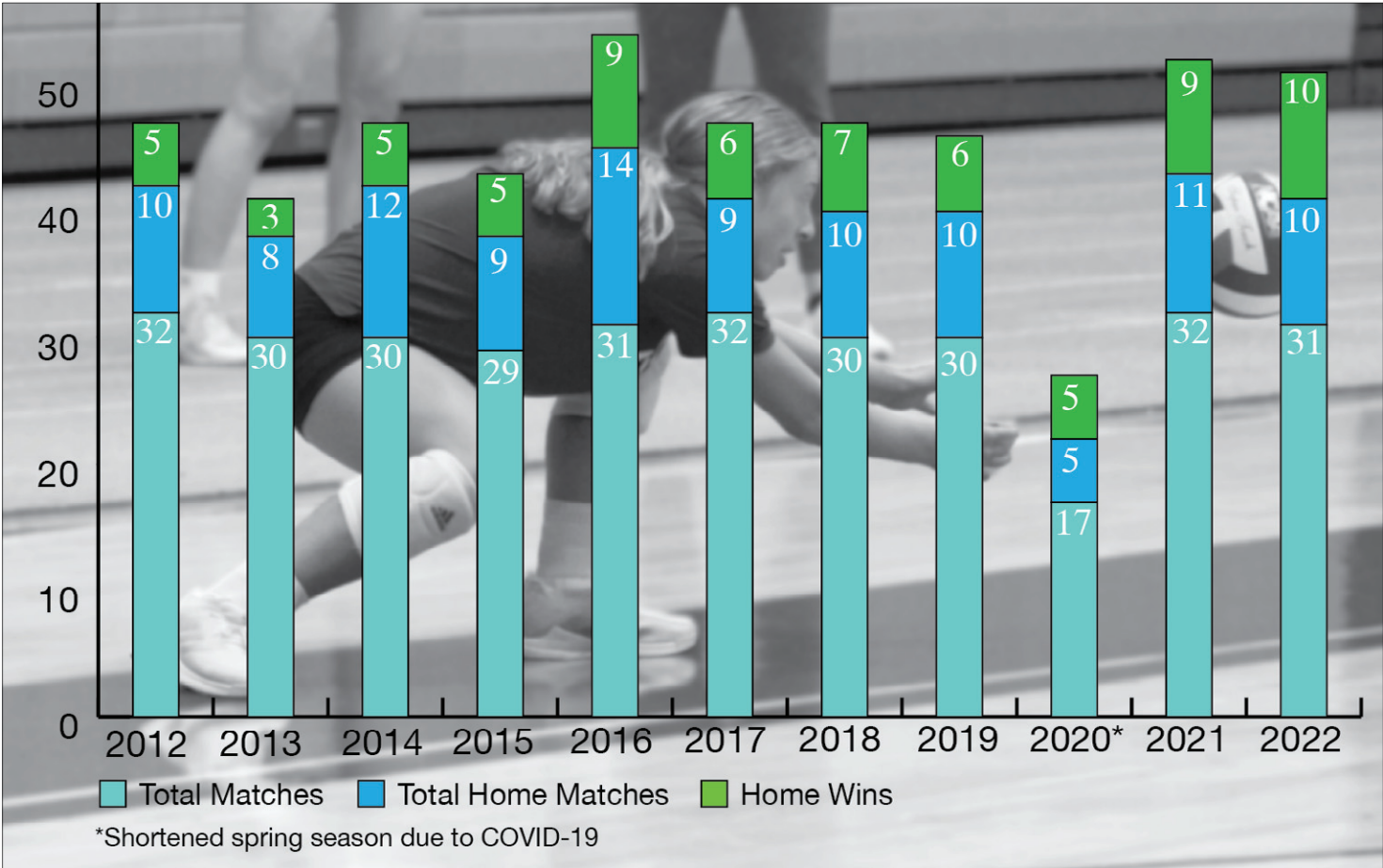
SEE REBOUND | A6



AARON HARE MISSOURIAN PHOTOGRAPHER

Northwest football sophomore running back Tank Young rushes down the field as Emporia State defenders lag behind in the second quarter of a 33-13 loss to the Hornets Sept. 7. Young totaled 41 rushing yards in the Bearcats' first loss to Emporia since 1994.

NORTHWEST VOLLEYBALL HOME WINS SINCE AMY WOERTH TOOK OVER



INFOGRAPHIC BY SAVANNAH ATHY-SEDBROOK DESIGN EDITOR

UP NEXT

NW vs. Missouri Southern
6 p.m. Sept. 15
Bearcat Arena

NW vs. Central Missouri
3 p.m. Sept. 16
Bearcat Arena

NW vs. Missouri Western
6 p.m. Sept. 19
St. Joseph, Missouri



It plays in your favor usually when you're in a friendly crowd and you're at home, as well as when you play in the gym that you practice in every day"

AMY WOERTH

NORTHWEST VOLLEYBALL COACH

Volleyball to start home schedule

STEVEN CROSBY

Sports Reporter | @sicsteve27

Northwest volleyball will be playing at home in Bearcat Arena for the first time this season as the Bearcats go up against MIAA foes Missouri Southern and Central Missouri

The Bearcats are on a 13-game win streak at home, after going 10-0 last season. Coach Amy Woerth said it definitely helps when

they play in front of Northwest fans.

Ranked No. 18 in the latest American Volleyball Coaches Association's top-25 poll, the 'Cats will have their home opener against Missouri Southern at 6 p.m. Sept. 15. The Lions are 6-2 after going unbeaten at the Southern Invite Sept. 1-2 and 2-2 at the Flagler Saints Classic Sept. 8-9.

The Bearcats defeated the Lions three times last season to take the current win streak against Southern to 17 matches.

The last time the Lions beat the Bearcats was Oct. 25, 2014.

The second home match for Northwest will be against Central at 3 p.m. Sept. 16 at Bearcat Arena. The 3-4 Jennies haven't gotten off to the best start, going 1-2 at the Courtyard by Marriott Tampa Volleyball Classic Sept. 1-2, then 2-2 at the Colorado Premier Challenge Sept. 8-9. Two of the Jennies' wins and all of their losses were against ranked opponents.

The Bearcats and Jennies played each other twice in 2022, with both teams leaving with a win.

The Bearcats will be back on the road against Missouri Western at 6 p.m. Sept. 22 in St. Joseph, Missouri. Northwest is on an 11-match win streak against Western — the last time the Griffons beat the Bearcats was Oct. 24, 2017.

SEE SCHEDULE | A6

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